

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 83

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Danny Ricker on his receipt of the Governor's Volunteer Stars Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those estimable citizens who have dedicated their time and energies to helping others; and

WHEREAS, each year, 1.6 million Tennessee volunteers give over 137 million hours of community service, contributing \$3.3 billion to Tennessee's economy; and

WHEREAS, these volunteers are the backbone of our communities, and by donating their time and talents to fulfill needs that would otherwise go unmet, they embody the spirit of giving; and

WHEREAS, Danny Ricker of Greeneville is one such exemplary person, who is a recipient of the Governor's Volunteer Stars Award in recognition of his laudable commitment to his community; and

WHEREAS, for the last thirteen years, Mr. Ricker has served as a volunteer chaplain with the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP), Greeneville Police Department, Greeneville Fire Department, Greene County Emergency Medical Services, Greene County Sheriff's Department, Greene County 911, Emergency Management Agency, and Greene County Volunteer Fire Departments; and

WHEREAS, Danny Ricker's volunteer service began with a request from the THP asking for assistance with death notifications; his early work with the organization set him on a path of providing spiritual and emotional support to the officers, which eventually turned the notification position into an officer support program and statewide training program for THP chaplains; and

WHEREAS, his continued desire to do more for his community inspired him to found the Emergency Chaplains in 2014; these volunteers are able to respond twenty-four hours a day in support of responders and victims of any emergency; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ricker continues to be paged out to all structure fires and is often on the scene of large motor vehicle accidents and search-and-rescue operations; his goal is to provide moral and spiritual support to responders before, during, and after each incident; and

WHEREAS, Danny Ricker is a model citizen; his commitment to helping others through volunteerism epitomizes the spirit of the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Danny Ricker for his outstanding community leadership, congratulate him as an esteemed recipient of the Governor's Volunteer Stars Award, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.